

July 13, 2018

August 20, 2018: Second Notice

To: Speaker Paul Ryan

Cc: Representative Bob Goodlatte
Representative Steve Stivers
Wisconsin Senate President Roger Roth
Wisconsin House Speaker Robin Vos
Governor Scott Walker

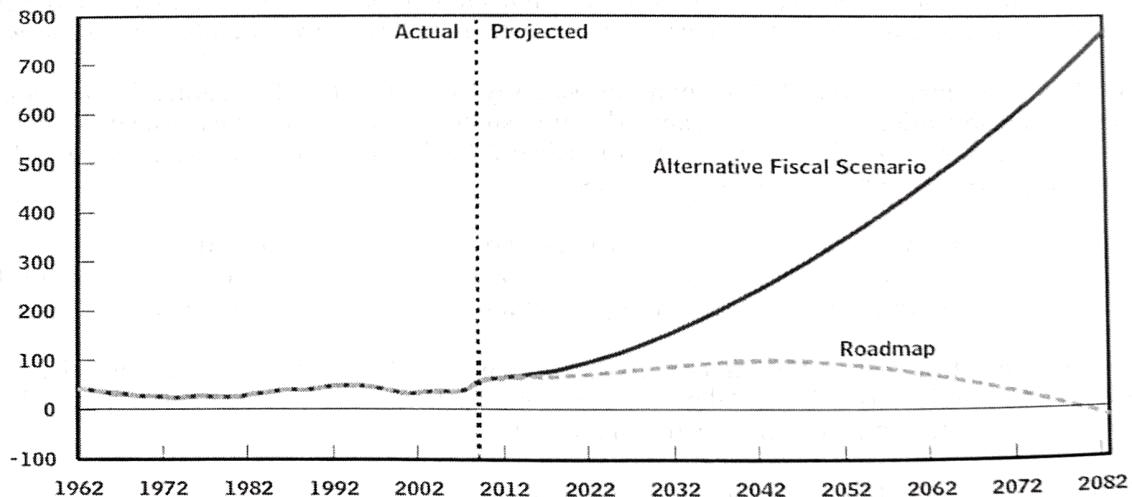
Subject: Should Congress Empower the State Legislatures to Draft, and the Citizens of 38 States to Ratify, a U.S. Balanced Budget Amendment by November 10, 2020?

You stated in 2011 that, "I do support a Balanced Budget Amendment (BBA) that would keep spending and tax rates in line with their historical averages." Would you, today, support a state-drafted, voter-ratified BBA that approximated your "Roadmap for America's Future"? Over seventy-five years, such a BBA would:

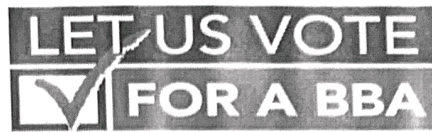
- Limit discretionary spending growth to inflation + 0.7%;
- Make reformed entitlements sustainable.;
- Limit total revenues to 19% of GDP;
- Quadruple real GDP per capita from \$40,000 to over \$160,000;
- Completely pay off the nation's debt and
- Generate surplus revenues sufficient to cut taxes approximately 30% across the board from 2008 levels.

Debt Held by the Public Under CBO's Alternative Fiscal Scenario and the Roadmap

(Percentage of gross domestic product)

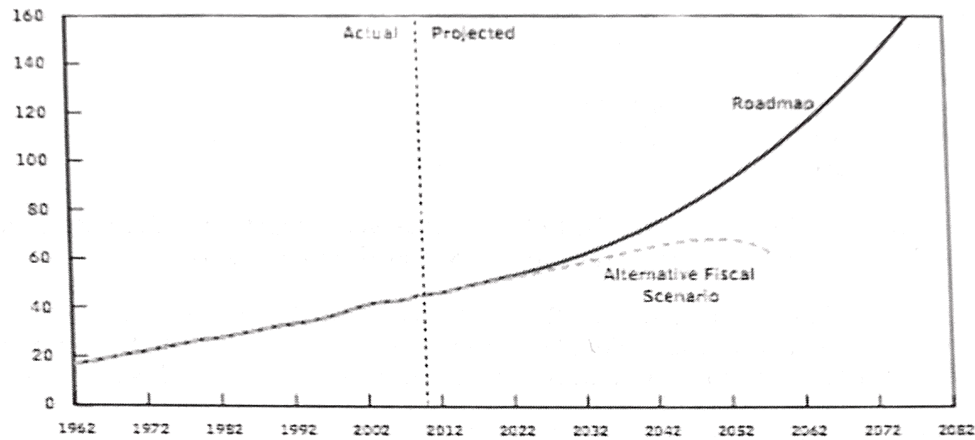


Source: Congressional Budget Office based on the agency's *The Long-Term Budget Outlook* (June 2009).



Real Potential Gross National Product per Person Under CBO's Alternative Fiscal Scenario and the Roadmap

(Thousands of 2009 dollars)



Source: Congressional Budget Office based on the agency's *The Long-Term Budget Outlook* (June 2009).

Representative Goodlatte recently called on Congress to rise above partisanship and *“join together to send a balanced budget amendment to the states for ratification...freeing our children and grandchildren from the burden of a crippling debt they had no hand in creating, so they can be free to chart their own futures for themselves and for their own posterity.”*

Senator Hatch, in a Wall Street Journal Op Ed “Identity Politics threatens the American Experiment,” also urged his colleagues to “rise above partisanship” because:

“Ideas—not identity—should be the driving force of our politics. By restoring the primacy of ideas to public discourse, we can foster an environment that will allow democracy to thrive, an environment of free thought and open deliberation unconstrained by the excesses of political correctness.”

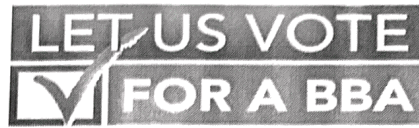
Article V of the U.S. Constitution includes a non-partisan way to draft and ratify an amendment such as a BBA. It stipulates that a convention for proposing amendments “shall be called” upon the application of two-thirds (34) of the several states. There have been over 700 Article V Applications over the last 229 years...but, no convention “call” has ever been approved by Congress.

Ratification by the State Convention Mode requires a majority vote of the people in three-quarters of the states through state convention delegates pledged to vote for or against the proposed amendment. Senator Hatch’s state of Utah ratified the 21st Amendment (repealing Prohibition) by, in essence, a vote of the people.

The Utah State Convention met on December 5, 1933. There was no debate. The Convention Delegates voted as they had pledged to the citizens of Utah. All 36 state convention delegates followed their oath and the instructions from the voters, 70% of whom voted to repeal Prohibition.

Our Founders also envisioned a constitutional amendment process without encumbering partisanship. Alexander Hamilton, in Federalist 85, said:

“But every amendment to the Constitution, if once established, would be a single proposition, and might be brought forward singly. There would then be no necessity for management or compromise [i.e. “rise above



partisanship”], in relation to any other point no giving nor taking. And consequently, whenever nine, or rather ten States, were united in the desire of a particular amendment, that amendment must infallibly take place.”

Would our Founding Fathers and Congressional leaders for a BBA advise that a “partisan-gridlocked” Congress pass a simple resolution as soon as possible, enabling the states to draft and the American people to vote on a U.S. Balanced Budget Amendment? This resolution would:

1. Set the time and place (such as July 4, 2019 in Philadelphia) for a convention of states to draft a constitutional amendment requiring balanced-budgets and a spending-growth-roadmap, such as the highly successful Swiss “Debt Brake,” by counting 34+ applications of the 700+ submitted by the states and
2. Stipulate that ratification would be by a vote of the people in 38 states (State Convention mode of ratification).
3. (Optional) Prohibit any proposed amendment unrelated to balancing the federal budget from being forwarded to the states for ratification.

Finally, Speaker Ryan, your long-term goal of passing the “*Roadmap for America’s Future*,” legislatively, could be constitutionally imposed as early as November 10, 2020, when Americans in 38 states could vote to approve (ratify) a Balanced Budget Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

I look forward to discussing this opportunity for Congress to “*rise above partisanship*” with a vote of the people in 38 states to constitutionally require Congress to follow your “*Roadmap for America’s Future*” that:

- “Fulfills the Mission of Health and Retirement Security for all Americans;
- Lifts the Burden of Debt from the Shoulders of Future Generations; and
- Ensures American Jobs and Competitiveness in the 21st Century Economy.”

Very Respectfully,

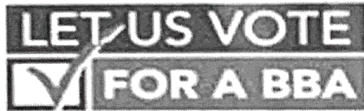
David Biddulph
Co-founder

Let Us Vote for a Balanced Budget Amendment Citizen’s Campaign, Inc.

P.S. 83% of Americans agree that it is time to “*rise above partisanship*” with “*an extraordinary solution*” to “*our extraordinary fiscal crisis*.” According to recent polling of 8,671 registered voters, Congress should “Let Us Vote for a Balanced Budget Amendment.” That is: 83% of Democrats, 83% of Republicans and 83% of Independents! (Note: 45% indicated they would **only** vote for a candidate who “Let Us Vote for a BBA.”

Enclosures (4)

- Coalition Letter Supporting “Let Us Vote for a BBA”
- Why American Economic Stability Depends on a BBA
- Policy Framework for the “Let Us Vote for a BBA” Campaign
- “Let Us Vote for a BBA” U.S. Polling Summary



April 11, 2018

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader McConnell:

The American people, along with American job creators – both small and large businesses – want a balanced federal budget. Nearly all state governments are required to balance their budgets, not only because it is sound family economics—not to spend more than you earn—but also because it’s a winning issue. A CNN poll found that 74 percent of the American people favor a constitutional amendment to require a balanced federal budget. As November approaches, we know the right position on this core issue will bring results.

For far too long—and as recently demonstrated by the 2018 Omnibus Bill—Congress has ignored the will of the taxpayers by continually increasing spending, regardless of whether it is controlled by Democrats or Republicans. The undersigned organizations believe a vote on House Joint Resolution 2, “Proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States”, constitutes little more than a show vote that, in order to matter, must be backed up with a call for a convention of states to consider a balanced budget amendment (BBA) to the U.S. Constitution once the 34-state application requirement has been met.

HJR 2 ignores obvious and meaningful steps toward genuine reform, fails to address unsustainable government spending, creates a bias toward raising taxes, and requires a very high threshold for passage. The Congress, clearly unable to shake its overspending habit, will never meet this bar and should instead exercise its constitutional power under Article V to empower the states to draft, and the people to ratify, a Balanced Budget Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

During the months before a convention convenes, the American people will have the opportunity to share their opinions on the fiscal limits to include in the drafting of a BBA. Most importantly, the citizens of the United States of America should decide if they want to ratify a BBA that could be designed by their state representatives. In calling for a convention of the states, Congress could honor the principles of federalism and empower the American people to create a fiscally solvent future.

HJR 2 will do nothing to address America’s fiscal crisis. The following organizations, and the millions of Americans we represent, want to underscore that while consideration of HJR 2 helps to advance the national conversation about the importance of a BBA, it does not address America’s real and grave fiscal challenges. Therefore, HJR 2 must be followed up with action – a call for an amendments convention to propose a BBA. The states have the political will to do what the Congress is unable to do.

Very respectfully,

Lisa B. Nelson
Chief Executive Officer
ALEC Action

Speaker Linda Upmeyer
Iowa House of Representatives

Grover Norquist
President
Americans for Tax Reform

Rep. Kelly Townsend
President
Arizona BBA Planning Convention

Andrew F. Quinlan
President
Center for Freedom and Prosperity

David Biddulph, Co-Founder
Let Us Vote for a BBA
Citizen's Campaign

Jason Pye
Vice President of Legislative Affairs
FreedomWorks

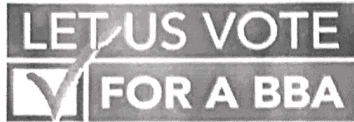
Alfredo Ortiz, President and CEO
Job Creators Network

David Williams, President
Taxpayers Protection Alliance

James L. Martin, Chairman
60 Plus Association

Matthew Kandrach, President
Consumer Action for a
Strong Economy

Saulius "Saul" Anuzis, President
60 Plus Association



Why American Economic Sustainability Depends on A Balanced Budget Amendment

The National Debt Has Become a Staggering Burden

The United States is more than \$21 trillion in debt. That amounts to more than \$174,000 per American taxpayer. Further, projections indicate that our federal government plans to increase national liability by another \$11 trillion over the next ten years. Looking forward, we can also anticipate another \$100 trillion in future unfunded liabilities. These include interest on the national debt, pensions for federal employees and the costs of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. That represents nearly \$1 million in liability for each household in America.

America's National Credit is at Risk

In December of 2017, there were only eleven countries in the world with higher debt to GDP ratios than America's 105.4%. Among G20 nations, there were only two. Attempting to deal with the debt by printing money will risk hyperinflation like that suffered in Germany after World War I. National default will produce the chaos similar to that recently witnessed in Greece.

Rising Interest Rates Threaten a Cycle of Increasing Debt

With the Federal Reserve taking a more aggressive stance on raising interest rates in 2018, borrowing is becoming increasingly expensive. And given the recent tax cuts and the 1.3 trillion-dollar spending bill, the United States is projected to borrow over a trillion dollars, yearly, by 2019. The additional debt will be financed through increased treasury sales, at yields high enough to attract new investment in an already saturated debt-market. This will push interest rates up further, requiring more borrowing to finance a debt expanding beyond control.

Debt Levels Threaten National Security

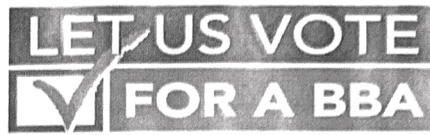
America's weakened economic position is reducing our global standing and limiting our ability to maintain a strong military. According to former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, "...the single, biggest threat to our national security is our debt." U.S. Senator David Perdue described the situation this way: "Today we have the smallest Army since World War II, the smallest Navy, since World War I, and the smallest and oldest Air Force ever."

America's Entitlement Programs are at Risk of Insolvency

According to the 2018 Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund, Social Security costs will surpass total income this year. Trustees project that the Fund's deficits will be met through interest and non-interest income and trust fund asset reserves through 2034, after which Social Security will become insolvent. A balanced budget amendment could create constitutional protections for the benefits Americans have earned, and the programs that sustain our country's most vulnerable citizens.

A Balanced Budget Amendment Could Restore a Sustainable Economic Future in America

The U.S. Congress has not been able to impose meaningful spending limits through legislative action. Whether leadership was Republican or Democratic, the national debt has continued to grow for sixty consecutive years. The Swiss, by contrast, constitutionally adopted a fiscal limit they call the "Debt Brake" in 2001, which slowed total spending growth by about 2% per year. Subsequently, Switzerland has begun paying down its national debt, it enjoys the lowest borrowing cost of any country in the world, and its citizens enjoy the highest GDP per capita of the world's 100 largest countries. In 2010, the Congressional Budget Office projected that over seventy-five years, the implementation of similar fiscal rules in the U.S. would result in the quadrupling of real potential gross national product per person (from \$40,000 to over \$160,000), the preserving of reformed entitlement programs for future generations, and the elimination of America's national debt.



Policy Framework: Achieving Permanent Federal Fiscal Reform Now

Policy Brief

Background Status - With many key voter issues currently being addressed in Washington, constituents have turned their attention to the mounting federal debt and how that continues to threaten us all. Unfortunately, the latest Omnibus Bill was interpreted by voters as confirming their impression that Congress has a total lack of concern regarding the issue. It is clear that the broken federal budget is unsustainable and simple procedural changes will not solve the problem. Decades of experience with Washington has shown the voters that Congress (on this issue) has a complete absence of political will to do anything other than posture with empty votes and then try to shift the blame for the continued inaction.

To be fair, automatic spending allocations for existing federal programs (mandates) and interest on the debt, have expanded to over 2/3 of the country's annual budget, leaving little or no room for effective control by Congress. Spending at current levels is projected by the CBO to result in massive deficits for the foreseeable future, unless something is radically changed.

A New Approach - There is an innovative approach that is doable, even in today's political climate. Requiring only simple majority votes of Congress, this constitutionally grounded strategy, offers the GOP leadership a winning issue, guaranteed to gain the support of huge numbers of voters for years to come. The GOP alone is positioned to quickly act on this proposal, designed to advance a practical, long term fiscal budgetary solution and avoid the potential of our federal budget spiraling out of control.

Referred to as, Let US Vote for a BBA, this campaign has an unprecedented 83% approval of registered voters, astonishingly that holds equally with Republicans, Independents and Democrat voters. Almost half (45%) are committed to casting their vote this fall for any candidate that supports this issue.

Designed to set the nation on a gradual path to fiscal stability, the proposed fiscal reform policy would require the GOP to immediately embrace this approach and ensure members at all levels act uniformly to support the new policy. This will be entirely appropriate as Republicans currently hold the majority in both houses of Congress, elected to those positions on a platform of fiscal responsibility.

Specific Recommendations - Congress would need to act immediately on the following three items: (1) utilizing 34 of the over 700 current applications, call for an Article V Amendatory Convention to propose a new amendment (BBA) designed to slowly restore balance to the federal budget and start to pay down the debt, (2) stipulate no proposals other than for the BBA will be forwarded to states for ratification and (3) preannounce that (just as was the mode to ratify the 21st amendment that repealed prohibition) the people will be allowed to vote and ratify this into law, electing (by referendum) declared-delegates utilizing the state convention mode.

As with any proposed amendment, ¾ of the states are required to ratify, ensuring only a comprehensive long-term solution will be proposed; one that states, Congress and the American people can all live with. By stipulating only proposals related to the single subject will be forwarded to states for ratification, any concerns of a "runaway" amendatory convention process are completely eliminated.

Immediate and Long-Term Benefits - This bold new policy and these recommended actions of Congress, can begin to right the financial ship-of-state and in so doing, securing a place of honor for the GOP in American economic history. Near term, these actions will solidify current GOP majorities, effectively lock-in current **low tax rates**, **block** reckless spending initiatives, compel modest action to secure social security and provide a framework for stable funding in other key programs (such as defense and infrastructure). With such overwhelming, across-the-board support for this issue, the voters will no doubt continue to reward the Republican Party responsible for getting America back on track, enthusiastically reelecting GOP candidates for years to come. Voters will appreciate that our elected officials will now be obliged to come together and do the hard work of constructing a fiscally sound federal budget to save the American Dream.

National Poll Results

People's Constitutional Right to Vote on a U.S. Balanced Budget Amendment

Random Sample 8,671 | U.S. Registered Voters in CA, KY, NY, SC & WI
April 22-May 5, 2018

Survey Question #1: "Who should decide if a Balanced Budget Amendment is added to the U.S. Constitution: a vote of the people, or a vote of Congress?"

Survey Question #2: "Do you want your state representatives and congressmen to know that to get your vote, he or she needs to vote YES on giving Americans a vote on a U.S. balanced budget amendment?"

Answer	U.S.	Democrats	Republicans	Other
#1 "Vote of the People"	83%	83%	83%	83%
#1 "Vote of Congress"	17%	17%	17%	17%
#2 "Let Us Vote" for a Balanced Budget Amendment "to get our vote"	45%	46%	45%	44%
Total Respondents	8,671	3,596	3,689	1,386

Answer	U.S.	CA	KY	NY	SC	WI
#1 "Vote of the People"	83%	80%	87%	82%	82%	84%
#1 "Vote of Congress"	17%	20%	13%	18%	18%	16%
#2 "Let Us Vote" for a Balanced Budget Amendment "to get our vote"	45%	40%	49%	44%	47%	44%
Total Respondents	8,671	1,430	2,120	1,772	1,264	2,085



Polls performed by Voice Broadcasting Corp.
For questions: Ben@voicebroadcasting.com

Rep.Vos

From: David Biddulph <davidlbiddulph@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 09, 2018 11:38 AM
To: Scott Walker
Cc: Leah Vukmir; Ron Johnson; Rep.Vos; Paul Ryan
Subject: Governor Walker Will You Pledge to Support 84% of Wisconsin Voters Who Say, "Let Us Vote for a Balanced Budget Amendment"?

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Governor Walker

Governor Walker, you endorsed a state-drafted Balanced Budget Amendment (BBA), noting: "Those things [e.g. BBA] aren't going to happen by virtue of Congress. I think it makes sense for the people of this country to say we want to have a say." (Note: 83% of U.S. Voters agree, we want to "have a say" (vote) a U.S. Balanced Budget Amendment.)

Two questions:

1. Will You Pledge to Support 84% of Wisconsin Voters Who Say, "Let Us Vote for a Balanced Budget Amendment"?
- 2.

Would you consider hosting the Nation's first Article V Amendment Convention, limited to drafting the equivalent of Speaker Ryan's Roadmap America's Future (e.g. Spending-Growth-Limiting, Budget-Balancing Amendment)?

Here is my previous letter to Wisconsin's Republican Leaders:

September 20, 2018

To: Speaker Paul Ryan
Governor Scott Walker

Senator Ron Johnson
Speaker Robin Vos
State Senator Leah Vukmir

Subject: Will you use our Founders' Constitutional "Safety Valve," Article V, to empower the States to draft and the People to ratify a U.S. Balanced Budget Amendment that could follow Speaker Ryan's "Roadmap for America's Future"?

Speaker Ryan, you announced the Roadmap for America's Future on May 2, 2008, stating:

"Today I'm introducing comprehensive legislation to address what I believe is the greatest threat to our nation's long-term prosperity: the looming entitlement crisis.

My plan is called A Roadmap for America's Future, and I'd like to explain what it does, and why I'm doing it.

Right now, America has a choice between two futures. In one – the fiscal path we're on now – we continue trying to meet the needs of a rapidly changing world with outdated programs that are growing themselves right into extinction. This will lead us down a fiscal path on which Americans' health and retirement security programs collapse; we will condemn future generations to a crushing burden of debt and taxes; and our economy is crippled and unable to compete with the rest of the world.

In fact, by the time my three kids are my age, they will have to pay twice the taxes we pay today – just to keep the government afloat. This will occur with no new programs, no new spending – double the taxes just to maintain the status quo.

And yet we do nothing about it. Year after year, we keep kicking the can down the road. Both parties share in the blame for this inaction. We don't want to deal with this problem – or even talk about it – because it's an election year, and it's just too controversial to deal with such things. But it's an election year every other year. If we continue to wait for the "right time" for reform – the politically "safe" time – we will never solve this problem.

Well, I didn't come to Washington just to be a Congressman. I came here to do something. The people of Wisconsin sent me here to solve problems, not to ignore them.

And when I see a government that makes promises it can't possibly keep; a future where my kids will be worse off than I am; and an American economy that will struggle to compete – let alone lead – in an international economy, I see the need for a plan that sets a different course.

This is the future we face if we do nothing. I believe we can – and must – set a different course. If we begin to act immediately – there remains the opportunity for a dramatically better American future. But the time for talk has passed. We need a plan."

Speaker Ryan, given your support for "a balanced budget amendment that would keep spending and tax rates in line with their historical averages," w

you be willing use our Founders' Constitutional "Safety Valve," Article V, to empower the States to draft and the People to ratify a U.S. Balanced Budget Amendment that could mandate that Congress follow your "Roadmap for America's Future"?

Governor Walker, you endorsed a state-drafted Balanced Budget Amendment (BBA), noting: "Those things [e.g. BBA] aren't going to happen by virtue of Congress. I think it makes sense for the people of this country to say we want to have a say." (Note: 83% of U.S. Voters agree, we want to "have a say" (vote) on a U.S. Balanced Budget Amendment.)

Senator Johnson, you stated: "I don't think you're going to find the political will to actually do the spending controls...and in the end, I think you need a constitutional amendment."

Speaker Vos, you led the Wisconsin Legislature to pass the BBA Article V Application because: "We are drowning in debt. Congress has failed to act in any meaningful way to curb our growing debt."

Senator Vukmir, you were one of the 3 deciding votes for Wisconsin's BBA Article V Application (AJR-21) and the first candidate for Congress to sign the Pledge to "Let Us Vote for a Balanced Budget Amendment" (LUV4BBA).

Speaker Ryan and Senator Johnson, would you sponsor the "Let Us Vote for a Balanced Budget Amendment" Joint Resolution that:

1. Calls for an Article V Convention for proposing a Balanced Budget Amendment (BBA) and "related fiscal limits" (e.g. Roadmap's Spending-Growth-Limit), to convene on July 4, 2019 in Madison, Wisconsin. The call would be issued on the counting of 34 Article V Applications from among the more than 700 Applications already submitted by state legislatures.
2. Stipulates that the State Convention Mode of Ratification shall be used if a BBA is proposed by the Article V Convention. (Note: Ratification of the 21st Amendment by State Conventions was effectively a vote of the people in three-quarters (36) of the states.)
3. Voids any proposed amendment unrelated to balancing the federal budget and preemptively prohibits the forwarding of any such unauthorized amendment to the states for ratification?

Governor Walker, would you consider hosting the Nation's first Article V Amendment Convention, limited to drafting the Roadmap's Spending-Growth-Limiting, Budget-Balancing Amendment?

Speaker Vos and Senator Vukmir, would you consider using your leadership with the nation's two leading state legislator organizations, National Council of State Legislators and American Legislative Exchange Council, to organize the Balanced Budget Amendment Article V Convention of States?

If your answer is Yes, please join Senator Vukmir and others by signing the Pledge to "Let Us Vote for a Balanced Budget Amendment."

Speaker Ryan, would you be willing to host a virtual Summit, soon, for the Wisconsin leaders to lay out a "Plan for America's Future via our Founders' Article V "Safety Valve"?

Thank you for considering the crucial role you each could play in advancing state-drafted, voter-ratified Balanced Budget Amendment. I look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

David Biddulph, Co-founder
Let Us Vote for a Balanced Budget Amendment Citizen's Campaign

Please consider reviewing our LUVBBA Pledge as 44% of the 2,085 WI voters polled say: "To get my vote, you have to support giving me a vote on a Balanced Budget Amendment."

Governor Walker, may I suggest your office set up a conference call with Wisconsin's Leaders to discuss leading the nation in using Article V to solve the our unsustainable deficit spending and let the people vote to ratify a Balanced Budget Amendment along the lines of Speaker Ryan's "Roadmap for America's Future"?

David Biddulph
David Biddulph
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FL 32170

Rep.Vos

From: David Biddulph <davidlbiddulph@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 20, 2018 5:20 PM
To: Scott Walker
Cc: Leah Vukmir; Ron Johnson; Rep.Vos; Paul Ryan
Subject: Would Wisconsin's Leaders Announce Wednesday Their Support for Calling and Hosting an Article V Balanced Budget Amendment Convention in Madison Wisconsin?

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Governor Walker

Would you offer Wisconsin's Capital to host a Balanced Budget Amendment (BBA) Convention if called by Congress?

Senator Johnson and Speaker Ryan, would you be willing to sponsor the "Let Us Vote for a Balanced Budget Amendment" Joint Resolution that 10 candidates for U.S. Senate including Leah Vukmir, and 18 candidates for U.S. House have Pledged to support that:

1. Sets July 4, 2019 in Madison Wisconsin to convene an Article V BBA Convention of states based on the existing 700+ Article V Applications,
2. Stipulates ratification would be by State Convention, effectively a vote of the people (See: Ratification of 21st Amendment) and
3. Prohibits any Convention proposed amendment unrelated to balancing the federal budget from being forwarded to the states for ratification?

Wouldn't it be fitting if the City named after James Madison, "Father of the Constitution" hosted the nation's first Article V Convention?

Governor Walker, you endorsed a state-drafted Balanced Budget Amendment (BBA), noting: "Those things [e.g. BBA] aren't going to happen by vi Congress. I think it makes sense for the people of this country to say have a say." (Note: 83% of U.S. Voters agree, we want to "have a say" a U.S. Balanced Budget Amendment.)